



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION.

About 50 members and guests attended a special meeting and dinner of the Association held at the Aldine Club, New York City, Friday evening, April 20, 1917. Prof. Allyn A. Young, President of the Association, presided. The subject of the meeting was the value, especially to business interests, of federal census statistics, and possible improvements for the next decennial census in 1920. Prof. Robert E. Chaddock, Assistant Secretary of the Association, arranged the very interesting program.

The discussion was opened by W. A. Hathaway* of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, who first briefly sketched the growth of the census from 1790 (the first census) to the present time, and then suggested several improvements in both scope and methods. In speaking of the next census, he discussed the desirability of: (1) keeping politics out of the census work, (2) certain changes in the schedules and classifications for manufactures, (3) a greatly simplified schedule for agriculture, (4) earlier publication of results, especially "Preliminary" totals, and (5) certain *annual* statistics of agriculture and manufactures, particularly the latter.

Various aspects of the census schedules and publications were then briefly discussed by the following speakers:

Colonel George Pope (National Association of Manufacturers)—emphasized the great value of census statistics to manufacturers, and pointed out the possible advantages of greater detail in industry classifications, and the desirability of collecting statistics at more frequent intervals.

O. P. Austin (National City Bank)—quoted census figures to show the need of annual censuses of agriculture and manufactures.†

* Mr. Hathaway was Chief of the Division for Agriculture and Chief Clerk of the Bureau during the 13th U. S. Census, 1910. (Editor's note.)

† His paper is printed in full elsewhere in this issue.

Osmund Phillips (Times Analyst)—suggested that: (1) the effect of higher prices on the increase in value of products of manufactures be stated, (2) the hours of labor required to produce the products reported for each industry be shown, (3) a classification of the size (value of products) of establishments by ownership be added, (4) the per capita consumption be computed by industries, and (5) the number of persons employed and value of products be secured each month or quarter from 1,000, or so, representative manufacturers, and these totals be used as a current index of industrial conditions.

E. A. Goldenweiser (Office of Farm Management of United States Department of Agriculture)—stated that the Department of Agriculture was coöperating with the census in drafting the agricultural schedule for 1920. He distributed copies of a tentative schedule for criticism.

M. C. Rorty (American Telephone and Telegraph Company)—made some very interesting observations on statistics of incomes, with especial reference to the possibility of securing trustworthy data without a complete enumeration.*

Frank Green (Bradstreets Commercial Agency)—called attention to the fact that distribution (wholesale and retail trade) was about the only line of business and industry not now covered by a federal census, and suggested that the government might well consider extending its statistical activity to cover this field. He pointed out some of the many ways in which such data could be used to supply the missing link in the statistical chain, and make it possible to correlate much unrelated data.

F. H. Kenny (World Almanac)—expressed great appreciation of the service that census statistics were rendering to all classes of business interests. He strengthened the arguments in favor of annual censuses by stating that the majority of requests which he received were for *later* figures.

G. H. Van Buren (Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.)—reported that the American Public Health Association was now studying the population schedules with a view to making suggestions for the next census.

* His paper is printed in full elsewhere in this issue.

The President called upon Dr. R. P. Falkner* (Alexander Hamilton Institute) and Dr. J. A. Hill (Bureau of the Census) to close the discussion. Dr. Falkner elaborated on some of Mr. Rorty's observations on income statistics, and commented on several aspects of census work. Dr. Hill expressed appreciation, on behalf of the census, of the friendly suggestions and criticisms put forth by the several speakers. He said the census officials welcomed this sort of help and coöperation, and expressed the belief that much good would result from the discussion of the evening.

* Former Assistant Director of the Census.